

WHAT IS CLAIMED:

~~1. A method of presenting data to a viewing entity having a viewer, comprising the steps of:~~

providing unformatted data to said viewing entity, said data comprising one or more unformatted data portions required to be converted into a format viewable to said viewer;

5 providing a plurality of formatters, each of which being capable of formatting one or more of said data portions into said format;

locating said formatters by said viewer for each of said unformatted data portions; and

formatting each of said portions by said located formatters whereby said data portions are converted to said format viewable to said viewer.

10 2. The method of claim 1 further comprising a step or providing identifiers for each of said data portions.

15 3. The method of claim 2 wherein said identifiers are tags included in said data portions.

4. The method of claim 2 wherein said step of locating formatters is implemented by making use of said identifiers.

~~5. The method of claim 1 wherein said formatters are plug able into said viewer.~~

20 6. A method of presenting data to a plurality of different viewers, comprising the steps of:

providing unformatted data to each viewers, said data including a plurality of unformatted

data portions;

providing a plurality of formatters, each of which being capable of formatting one or more data portions into at least one format viewable to at least one of said viewers;

locating by each viewer, for each data portion that required to be viewable to said viewer, a

5 formatter capable of converting said each data portion to a format viewable to said viewer;

formatting said each data portion by said located formatter whereby all of said unformatted data portions can be formatted at relevant viewers by relevant formatters into formats viewable to relevant viewers.

10 7. A method of claim 6 further comprising a step of providing a plurality of identifiers each of which identifies one of said data portions.

8. A method of claim 7 wherein said identifiers are tags included in relevant data portions.

15 9. A method of claim 7 wherein said step of locating is implemented by making use of said identifiers of said data portions.

10. A method of claim 6 wherein said formatters are plug-able into each of said viewers that locates them.

11. A system for formatting unformatted data having one or more unformatted portions to be viewable to a viewer, comprising:

~~conversion means for converting said data portions into a format viewable to said viewer,~~

said conversion means being separately located from said viewer;

identifying means for identifying each of said data portions;

locating means for said viewer, by using said identifying means, to locate said conversion

5 means for each of said data portions whereby said each data portion is converted at said viewer by said conversion means into said format viewable to said viewer.

12. A system of claim 11 wherein said conversion means comprises a plurality of formatters, each of which being capable of converting at least one of said data portions into said format.

13. A system of claim 12 wherein said formatters are plug-able in said viewer.

14. A system of claim 13 wherein said identifying comprises a plurality of tags each of which identifies one of said data portions.

15 15. A system for interpreting data from machine readable form to at least one human readable format, the system comprising:

a detector for detecting from information in incoming blocks of data one or more formats in which it is desired to display said blocks;

20 a plurality of formatters, each of the formatters interfacing with the detector using a standard interface;

means within the detector for invoking all formatters required to format said incoming blocks into said one or more formats, and

~~means for loading said formats into an interpreter, and for subsequently sending said incoming blocks to said interpreter.~~

16. The system of claim 15 further wherein said means for invoking invokes plural formatters to operate on the same incoming data stream.

5 17. The system of claim 16 wherein said plural formatters are arranged to receive incoming data in parallel.

18. A system for processing incoming blocks of data wherein the intermixed blocks include blocks to be formatted by different formatters, the system comprising;

10 a detector for checking a tag contained within each block of data, the tag being indicative of how to format the incoming data;

means responsive to said detector for routing the data to be formatted to proper formatting software; and

means for invoking the proper formatting software using a standard interface common to all of said different formatters to format said incoming blocks of data.

15 19. The system of claim 18 wherein the means for invoking includes loading software from storage to an interpreter.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein said means for invoking includes a switch for routing incoming data to one of plural preloaded formatters.